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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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THOMAS HOXIE
NOVARTIS CORPORATION
PATENT AND TRADEMARK DEPT
564 MORRIS AVENUE
SUMMIT, NJ 079011027

EXAMINER

DECLoux, AMY M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1644

DATE MAILED: 09/10/2002

9

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/875,519

Applicant(s)

FARRIES ET AL.

Examiner

Amy M. DeCloux

Art Unit

1644

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☐ Claim(s) 1, 37 and 51-56 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 37 and 51-56 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:
 - I. Claim 1, drawn to a native complement pathway protein modified such that the protein is capable of forming a down-regulation resistant C3 convertase, classified in class 530, subclass 380.
 - II. Claim 37, drawn to a DNA construct comprising a DNA sequence as defined in now cancelled claim 36, classified in class 536, subclass 23.1.
 - III. Claim 51, drawn to a method of reducing levels of complement pathway protein in a mammal, classified in class 424, subclass 184.1.
 - IV. Claim 52, drawn to a method of treating transplant rejection in a mammal, classified in class 424, subclass 184.1.
 - V. Claim 53, drawn to a method of localizing and/or amplifying endogenous complement protein conversion and deposition at a specific site, classified in class 424, subclass 184.1.
 - VI. Claim 54, drawn to a method of reducing complement-mediated destruction or damage to transplanted tissue organs, classified in class 424, subclass 184.1.
 - VII. Claim 55, drawn to a DNA sequence coding for a modified human C3 protein which is capable of forming a stable C3 convertase, classified in class 536, subclass 23.5.
 - VIII. Claim 56, drawn to a DNA construct comprising a DNA sequence as defined in claim 51, classified in class 536, subclass 23.1.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Groups I, II, VII and VIII are unique products. Group I is distinct from Groups II, VII and VIII because Group I encompasses proteins while Groups II, VII and VIII encompass DNA. DNA and proteins differ with respect to their physicochemical properties and are therefore patentably distinct. Groups II, VII and VIII all encompass DNA, but are unique products because only Group VII is defined in the instant claims. Group II depends from a cancelled claim (claim 36) and Group VIII lacks antecedent basis in claim 51 for the recited DNA molecule. Therefore Groups I, II, VII and VIII are patentably distinct.

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Groups III-VI are unique methods. They differ with respect to their respective endpoints, and are therefore patentably distinct, each from the other.

Group I and III-VI are related as product and process of use. The inventions can be shown to be distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) the process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product or (2) the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using that product (M.P.E.P. 806.05(h)). In the present case, the product as claimed, the modified native complement pathway protein can be used as an immunogen in a method of producing antibody secreting hybridomas, as well as in a method of reducing levels of complement pathway protein in a mammal, or in a method of treating transplant rejection in a mammal, or in a method of localizing and/or amplifying endogenous complement protein conversion and deposition at a specific site, or in a method of reducing complement-mediated destruction or damage to transplanted tissue organs.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art because of their recognized divergent subject matter, and because a search in the non-patent literature of any of these distinct inventions would not be co-extensive with a search of the others, an examination and search of two or more inventions in a single application would constitute a serious undue burden on the Examiner, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Amy M. DeCloux whose telephone number is 703 306-5821. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00-5:30.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christina Chan can be reached on 703 308-3973. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703 305-3014 for regular communications and 703 872-9307 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703 308-0196.

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Amy DeCloux, Ph.D.,
Patent Examiner,
September 8, 2002


Patrick J. Nolan, Ph.D.,
Primary Patent Examiner,